From: ajablins@enflex.net@inetgw
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 12/11/01 11:16pm
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

Dear U.S. Department of Justice Representative,

Again, I wanted to express my disappointment with the Microsoft settlement. This time, I am writing about a particular issue...

I am particularly concerned about the passages which talk about those excluded from access to the API's. The language is written so that Linux, Apache, and other open source developers would not have access to the API's just because they do not work for a company. This is a case where Microsoft is secretly slipping in some verbage so they can fight their chief competitors in the server markets, members of the open source software community.

One could also interpret the verbage in a way that would indicate that our own government (e.g., branches of the military, U.S. Department of Justice, NASA) and members of the university communities would not have access to the API's.

These exclusions are unacceptable. So much of the Internet depends on the Apache web server and the Linux operating system. So much web processing is done with Perl, an open source scripting language. Many branches of the goverment and universities are implementing systems and doing valuable research work using open source software. All of these developers should have access to the MicrosoftAPI's, not just developers working for conventional businesses.

The software industry has been using open source software ever since the 1960's. The goverment and universities have produced a wealth of software since then also. We can not exclude these communities from this settlement.

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